Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan (HAWCA)

Annual Report 2016
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Executive Director’s Message

By the end of 2016 we are proud to announce that we are entering our 17th year of foundation. During this time HAWCA implemented a number of successful projects and programs. We started our journey from 20 beneficiaries and today we are reaching to more than 30000 beneficiaries. Our struggle in the past years faced many ups and downs but this made us more strong and encouraged us to fight against violence, inequality and injustice.

Although in the current insecure and violent situation we have indirectly received many threats but we never give up and will continue to work enthusiastically to support the suffering and the most deserving part of the society who are the women and children.

It is worth mentioning that in the past years our main focus was on education and access to justice. Considering the security situation, we are planning to expand our activities and services to the most marginalized people in the provinces.

I want to thank our staff members who worked tirelessly as family members and put their efforts for the smooth and successful completion of the programs.

We are thankful to our donors and partners for their continuous support and encouragement and without whom this journey could not have been possible. Together we can change the devastating situation of our people.

Najia Karimi

Executive Director

HAWCA
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About HAWCA

After the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan the life of our people got worse. There were no jobs, security, and many people migrated to Iran and Pakistan in hopes of finding work and an income to feed their families, but even in the neighbouring countries they were not able to build a good life. They lived in inhuman conditions in refugee camps without food and shelter. The women and children used to beg on the streets to earn some money and not die of hunger.

Women and children were the first victims who suffered the most in those harsh conditions. It was then that a group of young men and women decided to work voluntarily to bring some changes to the lives of the people. The primary focus was put on providing free education to the children as they were the future of the country. Education was considered vital for the brighter future of Afghanistan and so primary schools were established in different parts of Peshawar. Afghan children then had easy access to schools. Food materials and stationary were also given to children on monthly bases to help them financially.

Working with women and children in Pakistan was not enough for HAWCA, so we started literacy courses all over Afghanistan. These were strictly secret, and though it was difficult and dangerous, it was essential for a better Afghanistan.

After Hamid Karzai took power, HAWCA moved its main office to Kabul and started its work here. Now that we were living in a legal environment it was time to start working in the legal fields. Afghanistan has one of the worst rates of violation of women rights in the world. To protect and defend the rights of women, HAWCA started legal aid centres for victims of violence, and also a safe house for those at risk.

Due to the hard work of the HAWCA personnel HAWCA was able to win more than fifty awards from all over the world. Some of them are mentioned below:

Isabel Ferror's Award: awarded on March 8, 2000 for HAWCA’s work in the field of education for women;
Amnesty International Award: Amnesty International title for working on rights of children and women from Italian Section;

Medalla de Oro del Ayuntamiento de Arganda del Rey: awarded on December 6, 2001 in Arganda, Spain for its humanitarian activities;

Amotinada Mayor: awarded in Madrid, Spain on September 9, 2002. Dedicated to the women of Afghanistan and HAWCA received it for representing women in the Humanitarian Field;

Sabino Arana Foundition’s Golden Shield: awarded on January 27, 2002 in Spain to HAWCA and The New York Fire Department especially;

Award of l’hospitalet, the city of Cooperation: awarded on January 27, 2002, from the city hall of l’hospitalet in Barcelona, Spain;

Primo Donne Award: awarded on March 12, 2002, by an institution called ANRP in Italy.

Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP): HAWCA received the first ever international award of Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize (EHMP) from UK on November 27, 2009.

Mission

HAWCA is an Afghan national NGO dedicated to working for the social well-being of all people with a particular focus on women and children.

Vision

HAWCA envisions a country where men and women are treated equally in all fields of life and given equal opportunities in political and non-political activities; and where children benefit from educational services without any prejudice as to their race, ethnic background, religion or tribe.
Goals
HAWCA aims to encourage the active participation of women in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

Mandate
HAWCA is and intends to be, mainly but not exclusively, engaged in promoting the participation of Afghan women in the development process and improving the well-being of women and children. Consequently, HAWCA’s mandates include:

1. Protection and Counselling
2. Education and Peace Building
3. Promoting Income-Generating and Micro-Credit Activities
4. Health and Child Care
5. Advocacy for Women and Children’s Rights at National and International level.
6. Emergency Response Operations
7. Sponsorship Program

HAWCA is member of the following networks:
1. Afghan Women’s Network (AWN) – Member and Executive Board Member
2. Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN) – Member and Executive Board Member.
3. South Asia Alliance for Grassroots NGOs (SAAGN Network) – Member
The year 2016 was a developing year for HAWCA. In this year with the support of our donors we were able to develop the capacity of our staff and update our policies to meet the international requirements. As usual, training on different aspects such as proposal writing, financial reporting, management etc were organized for the staff to build their capacity.

In 2016 HAWCA had 7 projects to implement in Afghanistan. The detail of the projects are as follows:
Women Protection center

Women Protection Centre

Project Location: Kabul

Duration of the project: Jan 2016- Dec 2016

Donor of the Project: UN Women

Project status: Ongoing

Women protection centre of HAWCA is one of the most successful WPCs in Afghanistan. The Centre is funded by UNWOMEN and every year around 180 to 200 women victims of violence receive support through this centre. In the year 2016 a number of 181 women and 71 Children benefited from the services of this centre. The women victims of violence are introduced to the centre by the Ministry of Women Affairs but on occasions women are also introduced to us by the local organizations, police headquarters and other state and non-state actors. Such cases will be registered with the Ministry of women affairs within 24 hours of referral.
The WPC provide the victim with legal and psychological supports. To improve their knowledge on women rights, legal sessions are organized by the defence lawyers and to make them self-sufficient vocational training courses are organized for them. The centre also provides the beneficiaries with educational courses such as literacy, numeracy, English and Computer classes.

While staying in the WPC the beneficiaries also receive all necessities of life such as food, clean water, cloths and hygienic materials. A Nurse and doctor is also present there to check the beneficiaries and support them in terms of medical services.
Precious Lives

Project Locations: Kabul and Herat

Duration of project: 2014-2017

Donor of the project: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Project status: Ongoing.

The project “Precious lives” is one of the most successful projects of HAWCA. This project is funded by Italian ministry of foreign affairs through an Italian NGO called COSPE and is implemented in Kabul and Herat provinces by HAWCA, OPAWC and COPSE. The aim of this project is to bring dignity back to the afghan women. To achieve its goal through this project tow Legal Aid centres for women victims of violence has been established in the provinces where women victims of violence receive legal and psychological services without any charge. In the year 2016 both centres were able to provide 200 cases with legal and psychological services and 130 women with legal advice.
The project also aims to bring the women activists together. To achieve this objective through the project, English and computer course are established in all three centres (HAWCA Kabul and Herat, OPAWCA in Kabul) where women and girls come for studies. In HAWCA centres each year around 210 women benefit from these services.

Establishment of women right defending committees to combat violence against women has been an essential part of this project. 20 Committees of men and women are established in Kabul and Herat whose duty is to control, monitor and report all forms of violence against women. These committees meet at least twice a month to discuss the issues of the locality with a focus on violence cases.
Training and awareness programs are organized for these committees to build their capacity to understand different laws on women right and to have better capacity to defend the rights of women.

Providing internship for the law student who has newly graduated is another important activity that was performed under this project. The aim of this activity is to support newly graduated women from law faculty to understand the legal procedure properly. Practical training and visits to the court are organized so that they could get familiar with the court proceeding and environment. Training sessions re also organized for them to understand the laws properly so that they could become strong women right defenders. In the Year 2016 a number of 12 new graduates benefited from this activity.
Legal Aid centres for Women Victims of Violence Mazar

Project Locations: Mazar-e-Sharif

Duration of project: 2015 - 2017

Donor of the project: FONDAZIONE ADIUVARE AND ANTESSA BANCA

Project status: Ongoing

Legal Aid centre for women victim of violence is a project funded by Antessa Banca and Foundazione Aiuvare through and Italian NGO called CISDA. This project also aims to support women victims of violence though legal and psychological services. All cost of the legal proceedings are covered by the project including the advertisement of the cases. In the past 12 months of the project 172 women have received legal and psychological services.

Under this project 15+ committees are also established in Mazar sharif to combat violence against women. These committees meet on regular bases and to improve their capacity regular awareness and training sessions are organized for them.

Organizing workshops for the law students, teachers and community members has been an essential part of this project. 4 workshop are organized for these people each year so that they could become strong women right defenders.

Internship for the young graduates of law faculty has also been an effective activity of the project. The graduates are provided with practical training on lawyering and follow-ups of cases in the court of law.

The centres activities extend to providing emergency medical services and literacy courses to women in the locality and to establish a good relationship with all state and non-state stakeholders in the area.
Legal Aid Centre for Women Victims of Violence

Project Locations: Nangarhar
Duration of project: 2016-2017
Donor of the project: Foundazione Aiuvare and Fortunato Family via CISDA
Project status: Ongoing

The project Legal Aid Centre for women victim of violence Nangarhar is active in Jalalabad city. This project is funded by Foundazione Aiuvare and Fortunato Family. The project seeks to provide legal and psychological services to women victims of violence. Through this centre awareness programs are also organized regularly to the local people and community. In the year 20016 this centre was able to provide legal service to 88 women victims of violence.

The project also provides internship for the young graduates so that when they finish their practical training they could become strong women right defenders and give priority to cases concerning violence against women.
Peace Building for the New Generation

Project Locations: Kabul

Duration of project: 2012-2016

Donor of the project: Kinder Not Hilfe (KNH)

Project status: Ongoing

Peace Building for the new generation is a project funded by KinderNotHilfe (KNH). This organization has been funding many projects in Afghanistan concerning children. Under this project every year around 335 to 350 children living in Ahmad Shah Baba Mina get education. The focus of the project is on Peace building subject which tries to create a peace-loving generation.
The priority under this project is given to those children who are working outside in shops or are scavengers. Many children have no access to school due to poor economy. Under this project these children have a chance to learn and get the basic education.

The centre also provides psycho-social counselling to the children who needs it. Many children suffer psychologically due to the family arguments and lack of resources at home. These children are met on regular bases by the psychologist to help them understand the way of life and how to combat difficulties.

English and computer classes are also provided to children. The children are very interested in these subject and are very enthusiastic to learn because they know about the importance of knowing English and Computer. On the other hand, a well equip library is also organized for the children where they can go and read story books, informative books and fairy tales. Beside the library an entertainment room is also organize where children can watch cartoon and play games during their period.
Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization (AHRAM)

The project Afghanistan Human Rights action and mobilization is a project funded by European Union. The aim of the project is to identify and mobilize the human right defenders in Afghanistan. This project is implemented by COSPE, HAWCA and CSHRN in all provinces of Afghanistan. In each province committees of human right defenders are established to monitor and report Human right activities. The committees are responsible to prevent Human right violation and to report any human right violation that they witness.

To build the capacity of the Human right defenders, many training and awareness sessions are organized. Some of these trainings were also done through online system.

Although the focal points in the provinces faces a lot of challenges including security, they are motivated to bring a culture of respect for human rights and to achieve this they visit the most dangerous parts of Afghanistan to disseminate information and awareness to the local community.
The decades of war and conflict in Afghanistan has left many children and families without any one to look after them. Most of the women who has no means of Income goes for prostitution and many children becomes victims of child abuse including force marriages, child marriages and force labour. To support these families and children, HAWCA has taken a step to find sponsors from the western countries. Through their donations many children and families has found a chance to have an honourable life. Many of the children who were not able to go to school now have the chance to go to school and to have a better future.